27. A. Chennaiah.
28. P. Hari Babu.
29. S. V. Rao.
30. G. Chinni.
31. J.N.V.S. Prasad.
32. K.S. Kumar.
33. V. Ram Babu.
34. D.M. Krishna.
35. P.N.R. Raju.
36. B.V. Raju.
37. L.R. Rao.
38. P. Ravisekar.
39. G. Ednna.
40. S. Prakash.
41. K. Ranga Rao.
42. K.P. Anil.
43. N. Subbramaniyam.
44. P.N. Devakaran.
45. R.K. Madar.
46. Venkatesh.
47. S. Kalani.
48. B. Kattimani.
49. P. Raviprakash.
50. S. Govindarajulu.
51. L. Nathu.
52. M. Prakash.
53. V.G. Shiva Kumar.
54. L. Damtalu.
55. M.S. Rathod.

मीटर लाइन को बड़ी लाइन में बदलने हेतु योजना

1948. **श्री बरजिन्दर सिंह:**
श्री बलवन्त सिंह रामूवालिया:

क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:—

(क) क्या नब्बे के दशक के दौरान रेलवे द्वारा छोटी लाइन को बड़ी लाइन में बदलने हेतु योजना को व्यापक रूप से क्रियान्वित किया गया था;

(ख) यदि हां, तो कितनी और किन-किन स्थानों पर तथा कितनी लम्बाई की मीटर लाइनों को बड़ी लाइनों में बदला गया और उन पर कुल कितनी धनराशि व्यय की गई;

(ग) क्या कतिपय विशेषज्ञों द्वारा व्यक्त की गई राय के अनुसार रेलवे इन परिवर्तनों के बाद भी अधिक लाभ अर्जित नहीं कर पाया है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस संबंध में सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया क्या है?

रेल मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री राम नाईक): (क) से (घ) सूचना इकट्ठी की जा रही है और राज्य सभा के सभा पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Construction of ROB at Ulhasnagar Railway Crossing and Tunnel at Kalyan

1949. PROF. RAM KAPSE:
SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had received a communication in 1997 regarding construction of ROB at Ulhasnagar Railway Crossing (Powai) and Tunnel (East and West) at Kalyan; and

(b) if so, the present status of these works?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Restructuring Freight Traffic

1950. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Business Section of "Sunday Pioneer" dated 24th May, 1998 under the caption "Railways in urgent need of course correction";

(b) whether there is any proposal to restructure freight traffic to reset revenue earning possibilities;

(c) whether freight rates have been raised beyond economic requirements;

(d) how does the Railways propose to bring in a competitive freight rate structure to win back freight; and

(e) full deails of the plans proposed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There is no proposal to restructure freight traffic. However, steps have been taken to re-adjust the freight rates to increase revenue earning possibilities.

(c) The freight rates of certain commodities are adjusted suitably from time to time to offset the increase in cost of inputs. While doing so, the impact of such increase on the economy is also kept in view.

(d) and (e) The following measures have been taken to make railway freight rates competitive so as to win back traffic:—

(i) Reduction in classification of iron & steel, gypsum (lumps and powder), limestone and dolomite proposed for the year 1998-99.

(ii) Revision in taper of cement, coal and iron and steel, proposed for the year 1998-99 to provide relief to long distance traffic.

(iii) No general increase in freight charges has been proposed for the year 1998-99.

(iv) Reduced station to station rates for specific commodities are quoted in deserving cases.

(v) Container Corporation of India has created a separate Domestic division to make a major attempt to get less than train load non-bulk traffic from road to rail by using to multi-modal containerisation route.

Gauge conversion work between Nadiad and Kapadvanj

1951. SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the gauge conversion work between Nadiad and Kapadvanj was completed in 1992-93;

(b) whether the work of Kapadvanj-Modasa Railway line is proposed to be taken up in the next Budget;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The work is already in progress.

(c) Earthwork and bridges will be completed in 1998-99. Track work is planned in 1999-2000 subject to availability of resources.

(d) Does not arise.

Renewal of Contract of Mobile/Hawking Book Stall

1952. SHRI JALALUDIN ANSARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that every bookstall contract is renewed for a period of five years and that of mobile/hawking book stall is for a period of three years;

(b) whether this procedure is being violated by Eastern and South Eastern Railways in renewing these contracts for a period of one year basis for harassing the contractors; and

(c) if so, the details/reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) On Eastern and South Eastern Railway there has been deviation from prescribed tenure for renewal of mobile book stall contracts. These railways have been directed to follow the stipulated tenure in future.

Construction of Railway Bridges at Paddanakad, Pallikkara and Chorode

1953. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received a letter from the Chief Minister of Kerala requesting to construct three railway bridges at Paddanakad, Pallikkara and Chorode; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.